

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic irrigation controller comprising:
 - a controller housing;
 - a microprocessor disposed on said controller housing;
 - an input device operable to selectively change an irrigation control mode of said microprocessor;
 - a first electronic display having energizable indicia corresponding to each selected irrigation control mode of said input device;
 - a second electronic display having energizable indicia corresponding to programming information for each irrigation control mode indicated on said first electronic display; and,
 - said energizable indicia of said first electronic display being the sole visual indicator of said selected irrigation control mode of said input device.
2. The irrigation controller of claim 1, wherein said second electronic display is a virtual dial.
3. The irrigation controller of claim 1 wherein said second electronic display further includes energizable indicia corresponding to a plurality of irrigation programs programmable by said controller.
4. The irrigation controller of claim 1, wherein said second electronic display is a liquid crystal display.
5. The irrigation controller of claim 1 wherein said second electronic display comprises multiple L.E.D.s.
6. The irrigation controller of claim 1, wherein said controller housing includes control text proximately applied to said second electronic display; said control text conveying each available irrigation control mode.

7. The irrigation controller of claim 1, wherein said controller housing has a front surface that is substantially flat.
8. The irrigation controller of claim 1, wherein said energizable indicia of said second electronic display unit are disposed in substantially circular arrangement so as to simulate a rotary dial.
9. An irrigation controller comprising:
 - a programmable processing unit operable to execute an irrigation program;
 - an input surface connected to said processing unit, said input surface operable to cause a change in a control state of said processing unit;
 - an electronic display operatively connected to said processing unit and said input surface so as to display a current control state of said processing unit; and,
 - said electronic display being sized and shaped to simulate a mechanical rotary dial on a face of said controller.
10. The irrigation controller of claim 9, wherein said input surface is a push button.
11. The irrigation controller of claim 9, wherein said electronic display is a liquid crystal display.
12. The irrigation controller of claim 9, wherein said electronic display comprises multiple L.E.D.s arranged in a shape of a circle.
13. The irrigation controller of claim 10, wherein said electronic display includes energizable indicia corresponding to each of a possible control state of said processing unit.

14. The irrigation controller of claim 10 wherein said electronic display includes energizable indicia corresponding to each of a plurality of programmable irrigation programs.

15. A method of programming an irrigation system comprising;
providing an electronic irrigation controller having an electronic display with energizable indicia corresponding to a selected control state and to a selected watering program of said controller;
selecting a first watering program for programming;
observing the selection of said first watering program in said electronic display;
electronically selecting a first control state of said controller and observing corresponding energized indicia in said electronic display;
inputting program parameters corresponding to said selected first control state into said controller;
electronically selecting a second control state of said controller and observing corresponding energized indicia in said electronic display;
inputting program parameters corresponding to said selected second control state into said controller;
continuing the selecting of control states and the inputting of program parameters until programming of said first watering program is substantially complete.

16. A method according to claim 15, further comprising the selecting of a second watering program for programming wherein said selecting of said second watering program automatically entails the selection of said first control state for said second watering program.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein the selecting of said second watering program and the automatic selection of said first control state for said second watering program includes observing corresponding energized indicia in said electronic display.

18. A method according to claim 15, wherein the selected first control state is the state governing a run time of each irrigation station of said first watering program.
19. A method according to claim 16, wherein the first control state is the state governing a run time of each irrigation station.
20. A method according to claim 15, wherein the observing of said energizable indicia includes observing energized portions of a display that simulates a mechanical dial.
21. A method according to claim 20, wherein the observing of said energizable indicia includes observing energized portions of a liquid crystal display.
22. A method according to claim 20, wherein the observing of said energizable indicia includes observing energized L.E.D.'s.